

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

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TAGS: PFOR, IN, US

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR KAUL'S MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY

FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF AN INDIAN WIRE SERVICE (PTI) ACCOUNT
OF AMBASSADOR KAUL'S MEETING WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER -- OBVIOUSLY
BASED ON KAUL'S BRIEFING:

BEGIN QUOTE

THE UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF STATE, DR. HENRY KISSINGER,
WILL NOW VISIT NEW DELHI BY THE END OF AUGUST OR EARLY IN
SEPTEMBER.

THIS NEW SCHEDULE WAS FIXED DURING A MEETING
BETWEEN HIM AND INDIA'S AMBASSADOR MR. T. N. KAUL
ON THURSDAY. ISSUES OF BILATERAL INTEREST WERE DISCUSSED
BY THEM DURING A PRIVATE LUNCH AT WHICH NO ONE ELSE
WAS PRESENT.

DR KISSINGER IS UNDERSTOOD TO HAVE REGRETTED THE
DELAY IN THE VISIT AND CHARACTERISED IT AS UNFORTUNATE.
AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE HE HAD SAID THAT THE DELAY WAS
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NOT (NOT) BECAUSE OF INDIA'S NUCLEAR EXPLOSION BUT

BECAUSE OF THE PROLONGATION OF THE SYRIAN-ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS NECESSITATING HIS ABSENCE FROM WASHINGTON FOR ABOUT FOUR WEEKS. IN HIS TALKS WITH MR KAUL, THE SECRETARY OF STATE REPORTEDLY REITERATED THIS. HE WOULD BE ACCOMPANYING PRESIDENT NIXON TO THE MIDDLE EAST AND MOSCOW AND EXPECTED TO HAVE A BUSY SCHEDULE UNTIL THE FIRST WEEK OF JULY.

ON THE NUCLEAR TEST CONDUCTED BY INDIA ON MAY 18, DR KISSINGER REAFFIRMED THAT IT HAD NO ADVERSE EFFECT EITHER ON INDO-AMERICAN RELATIONS OR THE BALANCE OF POWER IN SOUTH ASIA.

MR KAUL I UNDERSTOOD TO HAVE EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THE NUCLEAR DETONATION BY INDIA WOULD HAVE FAVORABLE POLITICAL FALLOUTS AND STABILISE THE SITUATION IN THE REGION. HE POINTED OUT THAT FRANCE HAD SUPPORTED IT AND THAT THE REACTION FROM THE THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES AND ALSO SOME OF INDIA'S CLOSE NEIGHBOURS ALSO WAS ONE OF UNDERSTANDING. HE TOLD THE SECRETARY OF STATE THAT THE ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSIONS OF CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES HAD CLEARLY STATED THERE HAD BEEN NO (NO) VIOLATIONS OF AGREEMENTS.

MR KAUL ALSO INFORMED DR KISSINGER OF INDIA'S REGRET AT THE PAKISTAN GOVERNMENT'S SUDDEN ANNOUNCEMENT CALLING OFF BILATERAL TALKS WITH INDIA. HE STRESSED THAT OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE WOULD NOT HELP THE FUTURE OF AREA.

DR KISSINGER WAS REPORTED TO HAVE REAFFIRMED THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS NOT (NOT) CONTEMPLATING ANY CHANGE IN ITS PRESENT ARMS SUPPLY POLICY TO PAKISTAN. (UNDER THIS POLICY ANNOUNCED BY THE US IN 1972, NO (NO) LETHAL WEAPONS WILL BE SUPPLIED EITHER TO INDIA OR PAKISTAN).

THE QUESTION OF RESCHEDULING OF INDIA'S DEBTS TO THE UNITED STATES ALSO CAME UP FOR REVIEW. DR KISSINGER INDICATED THAT THE US GOVERNMENT WAS STUDYING THE WORLD BANK'S RECOMMENDATIONS IN THIS REGARD.
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ON BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN INDIA AND US, THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND THE INDIAN AMBASSADOR REVIEWED THE PROPOSAL TO SET UP A JOINT COMMISSION. IT WAS FELT THAT THE SCOPE OF THE COMMISSION SHOULD BE WIDE ENOUGH TO BRING ABOUT ALL ROUND IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS THROUGH APPROPRIATE STEPS IN THE FIELDS OF TRADE, COMMERCE, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND CULTURE. THE COMMISSION IS LIKELY

TO BE SET UP DURING DR KISSINGER'S VISIT TO INDIA.

DR KISSINGER WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY HIS WIFE ON
HIS VISIT TO INDIA.

END QUOTE
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